

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS E FOR COOPER: AF FOR MOOSE: EB FOR
HORMATS: AND EUR FOR VINE

PASS TREASURY AND AID FOR BUTCHER AND BRONHEIM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, FR
SUBJECT: JUNE 22-23 EXPERTS MEETING TO DISCUSS
GISCARD SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR AFRICA

SUMMARY: DAY AND A HALF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON
FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR GROUP OF FIVE SPECIAL
COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO AID AFRICA RESULTED IN USEFUL
CLARIFICATION OF FRENCH THINKING AND
EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR THEIR
PROPOSAL. FRENCH LEANED HEAVILY ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF A "VISIBLE" EFFORT TO REGENERATE
AFRICAN CONFIDENCE IN THE WEST. THEY CONFIRMED
A WILLINGNESS TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THEIR ORIGINAL
FUND CONCEPT A COMMON "PROGRAM" BASED ON A
LIMITED NUMBER OF HIGHLY VISIBLE JOINT PROJECTS.
THEY DID NOT ABANDON THE "WISEMEN" CONCEPT, BUT
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APPEARED SENSITIVE TO GENERAL VIEW THAT THERE
MIGHT BE BETTER WAYS TO SEEK AFRICAN INPUT ON THE
FORMULATION OF THE PROGRAM. THERE WAS A FEELING
OF UNEASINESS ABOUT FORMAL STRUCTURES PROPOSED BY
FRENCH AND A CONCERN ABOUT SENSITIVITY TO AFRICAN
VIEWS AND HOW TO AVOID NEGATIVE POLITICAL
IMPACT IN SELECTION OF AFRICAN AID RECIPIENTS.

ALL DELEGATIONS TRIED TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE WHILE QUESTIONING MODALITIES OF FRENCH PROPOSAL. US RESPONDED TO FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR ALTERNATIVE IDEAS AND SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE VARIATIONS TO THE FRENCH IDEAS WHICH MIGHT ACHIEVE DESIRED POLITICAL IMPACT BUT HAVE LESS FORMAL STRUCTURE. NO COMMITMENTS WERE MADE. FRENCH CHAIRMAN'S "PROVISIONAL SUMMARY" REPRESENTED A FAIRLY ACCURATE OUTLINE OF THE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSION. NEXT IMMEDIATE STEP IS FOR COUNTRIES TO RESPOND IN BROAD TERMS TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND OTHER IDEAS PUT OUT ON TABLE, TO REACT TO FRENCH LIST OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND SUGGEST OTHERS, AND TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER MEETING SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER. U.S. DELEGATION SUGGESTS (PARA 8 BELOW) THAT WE CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHETHER THE CONTENT OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND QUICK PACE OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION ADVOCATED BY FRENCH ARE IN BEST INTEREST OF U.S. IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRG, FRANCE, THE UK, BELGIUM AND THE US MET ON JUNE 22 AND 23 AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE SPECIAL COORDINATED APPROACH TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THE MEETING WAS AT THE INVITATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FRENCH AND FOLLOWED UP EARLIER U.S.-FRENCH DISCUSSIONS AT THE PRESIDENTIAL AND UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL, AS WELL AS RECENT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS (ON ZAIRE) AND PARIS. THE DELEGATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS: FRANCE - FROMENT-MEURICE CHAIRMAN, PLUS A DELEGATION OF 7 (5 MFA, 1 ECONOMICS MINISTRY, 1 MINISTER OF COOPERATION). UK - LYNCH, ODM AFRICA, HEAD OF DELEGATION, PLUS 1 MFA AND 1 EMBASSY OFFICER. BELGIUM - REMICHE, COOPERATION MINISTRY, HEAD OF DELEGATION, WITH ONKELINKX OF MFA REPLACING HIM ON THE SECOND DAY, PLUS 1 MINISTRY OF COOPERATION AND 1 EMBASSY OFFICER. FRG - BOEHMER, HEAD OF DELEGATION, (MINISTER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION), 2 MFA, 1 MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS, 1

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EMBASSY OFFICER. US - VERNON JOHNSON (AF) HEAD OF DELEGATION, H. NORTH, AID; C. CUNDIFF, AF, A. BASORA, EMBASSY PARIS, L. JONNES, USOECD. FIRST DAY FOCUSED ON FRENCH PROPOSAL AND REACTIONS TO IT; SECOND DAY DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF U.S. VARIATIONS OF FRENCH PROPOSAL AND CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY. TONE OF MEETING THROUGHOUT WAS INFORMAL, OPEN, CONSTRUCTIVE AND CORDIAL. UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THIS WAS A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITHOUT COMMITMENT AND THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD REVIEW REPORTS FROM THEIR DELEGATIONS BEFORE ANY FURTHER STEPS WERE TAKEN.

3. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. A. POLITICAL CHARACTER. FRENCH CHAIRMAN FROMENT-MEURICE STRESSED REPEATEDLY THE URGENT POLITICAL BASIS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA BY THE GROUP OF FIVE. HE NOTED THAT RECENT EVENTS UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF REINSTATING THE AFRICAN PERCEPTION THAT THE WEST
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IS THEIR BEST SOURCE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ACTION REQUIRED MUST BE HIGHLY VISIBLE AND TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AFRICANS. HE STRESSED THAT THE PURPOSE WAS NOT TO DIVIDE AFRICANS. HE APPEALED FOR

"POLITICAL WILL" BY THE GROUP OF FIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH INITIATIVE.

B. PROGRAM RATHER THAN A FUND. FROMENT-MEURICE INDICATED THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS, IN PARTICULAR WITH THE U.S., THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A "PROGRAM" RATHER THAN A "FUND." THIS PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST OF HIGHLY VISIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE COLLECTIVELY IDENTIFIED AND FINANCED BY THE GROUP OF FIVE. FINANCING NEED NOT BE POOLED AS IN A FUND, BUT EACH PARTICIPATING DONOR GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A SEPARATE SECTION OR LINE IN ITS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUDGET WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY THIS PROGRAM AND ITS PROJECTS. FROMENT-MEURICE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO AGREEMENT ON FIXED SHARES IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS OF A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF FUNDING EARMARKED FOR THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM (I.E. THE U.S. SHARE HAD BEEN SUGGESTED AT 40 PERCENT OF \$1 BILLION OVER 5 YEARS). THE FINANCIAL CONDITIONS OF EACH DONOR'S SHARE OF A PROJECT SHOULD BE THE SAME.

C. FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. HE DESCRIBED A THREE-TIERED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

1) A BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHICH WOULD MEET PERIODICALLY (E.G. EVERY SIX MONTHS) AT THE SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO PROVIDE OVERALL POLICY GUIDANCE, INTERALIA, ON ELECTION OF PROJECTS, TO MONITOR PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS, AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AFRICAN VIEWS; 2) AN
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT AGENTS WHO WOULD "MANAGE" THE PROGRAM AND REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND 3) A SMALL SECRETARIAT WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN DONORS, BUT WHICH MIGHT BE DRAWN FROM EMBASSY STAFFS IN PARIS. D. AFRICAN WISEMEN. FROMENT-MEURICE REITERATED THE FRENCH CONCEPT OF CONSULTATIONS BY THE GROUP OF FIVE WITH SELECTED AFRICAN WISEMEN. HE NAMED HOUPHET-BOIGNY, SENGHOR AND KENYATTA, AND SUGGESTED OTHERS MIGHT BE ADDED SUCH AS KAUNDA AND AHIDJO. THE FRENCH ENVISAGED COLLECTIVE MISSIONS BY THE GROUP OF FIVE TO VISIT THESE WISEMEN AND TO SEEK THEIR GENERAL ADVICE AND REACTION TO PROPOSED PROJECTS. E. AFRICAN BENEFICIARIES. FROMENT-MEURICE DESCRIBED SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AS THE AREA FROM WHICH BENEFICIARIES OF THE GROUP OF FIVE'S EFFORT WOULD BE DRAWN. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE POOREST OR THE LAND-LOCKED, NEEDED HELP MORE THAN OTHERS AND SUGGESTED

THERE MIGHT BE OBJECTIVE CRITERIA TO HELP THE SELECTION PROCESS. PROJECTS OF A REGIONAL CHARACTER WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. F. TYPES OF PROJECTS. FROMENT-MEURICE OUTLINED SUGGESTED PROJECTS WHICH CENTERED HEAVILY ON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OPENING UP AFRICA, ON COMBATTING DROUGHT, AND ON DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY POWERED IRRIGATION IN AFRICA.

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4. INITIAL REACTION OF OTHERS. A. POLITICAL OBJECTIVE. ALL DELS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE OF A PROMINENT WESTERN ROLE IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH TO COORDINATE BETTER OUR AID EFFORTS IN AFRICA AND UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ACTIONS WHICH WOULD DIVIDE AFRICANS. SENSITIVITY TO AFRICAN VIEWS ABOUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WAS A THEME REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE EXPERTS' MEETING. B. PROGRAM APPROACH. U.S. DELEGATION WELCOMED FRENCH MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE FUND CONCEPT. OTHERS HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH THIS FRENCH AMENDMENT TO THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. MOST GENERAL CONCERN EXPRESSED WAS THAT

GROUP OF FIVE SHOULD BE AT LEAST SOMEWHAT EXPANDED. U.S. CAUTIONED THAT WE NEEDED TO EXAMINE SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN MORE DETAIL BEFORE WE COULD AGREE ON THE CONTENT OF A PARTICULAR PROGRAM. WE PREFERRED TO THINK IN TERMS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LAUNCHING A "CONSULTATIVE PROCESS" WHICH COULD CULMINATE IN SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS. C. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. FRENCH STRESSED NEED FOR "VISIBILITY" IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THEIR PROPOSED "PROGRAM" FOR SPECIAL AID TO AFRICA. BRITISH POINTED OUT DANGERS OF POSSIBLE DUPLICATION WITH EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL INSTITUTIONS, BUT IF A NEW STRUCTURE WERE CREATED PREFERRED THAT ITS M STRUCTURE BE LESS FORMAL THAN THAT, FOR INSTANCE, OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. THE GERMANS SAID THEY SHARED BRITISH CONCERNS, WERE NOT YET IN FAVOR OF NEW MECHANISMS, BUT COULD CONSIDER NEW CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES, ESPECIALLY WHERE (A) ONE DONOR COULD NOT HANDLE A PROJECT, OR (B) A PROJECT WAS OF A REGIONAL NATURE. D. AFRICAN WISEMEN. THIS ASPECT OF THE ORIGINAL FRENCH PROPOSAL GENERATED THE LEAST ENTHUSIASM. ALL AGREED ON ABSOLUTE NEED TO SOLICIT EARLY THE VIEWS OF AFRICANS ABOUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES, BUT DOUBTED WHETHER THE "WISEMEN" APPROACH WAS THE BEST WAY. BRITISH WERE PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE. THE U.S. POINTED TO POSSIBLY USEFUL ROLE OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AS A MULTILATERAL, ECONOMICALLY COMPETENT BODY. THIS GENERATED SOME SUPPORT GERMANS PLUGGED ALSO FOR THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA. BELGIUMS MENTIONED THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. FROMENT-MEURICE WOULD NOT ADMIT FRENCH WITHDRAWAL OF "WISEMEN" IDEA BUT SHOWED PERSONAL (OFF-THE-RECORD) SYMPATHY WITH CONCERN OF OTHERS THAT MAYBE THIS WAS NOT THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH TO AFRICAN VIEWS. HE URGED CONSIDERATION OF SOME KIND OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH AFRICANS AT OTHER THAN THE MULTILATERAL "TECHNICAL" LEVEL. E. AFRICAN BENEFICIARIES. FRENCH WERE PREPARED

TO CONSIDER AS POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES ALL OF
FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE SUB-SAHARA, DID NOT
EXCLUDE LUSOPHONE AFRICA AT A LATER STAGE (ALTHOUGH
DID NOT NOT BELIEVE PRACTICAL FOR THE MOMENT),
BUT DID RULE OUT THE HORN OF AFRICA. BRITISH
CAUTIONED AGAINST TOO OBVIOUS AN EMPHASIS ON
POLITICAL OR LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES, AND THOUGHT
PERHAPS PROJECTS OF A REGIONAL CHARACTER MIGHT
HELP AVOID THIS DANGER. GERMANS ECHOED THIS
VIEW, SAYING THAT AFRICAN RECIPIENTS SHOULD NOT BE
RESTRICTED BY SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED CRITERIA OF
EITHER A POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC CHARACTER.
BELGIANS SHARED CONCERN ABOUT THE SELECTION OF
BENEFICIARIES. U.S. SHARED GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT
SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES, POINTING SPECIFICALLY
TO THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OF
AFRICA AND TO CERTAIN FRONTLINE STATES IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA. F. TYPES OF PROJECTS.
EUROPEANS WERE GENERALLY POSITIVE ABOUT THE
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS MENTIONED BY THE FRENCH.
THERE WAS LITTLE INTEREST IN U.S. SUGGESTIONS OF

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LIVESTOCK, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC STABILIZATION
PROBLEMS OF SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES. G.

COMMENT. OVERALL REACTIONS TO FRENCH PROPOSAL LEFT MEETING BADLY IN NEED OF NEW APPROACH BUILT ON BASIC FRENCH OBJECTIVES BUT TAKING ACCOUNT OF DIFFERING CONCERNS OF GROUP. THIS LED TO A U.S. ATTEMPT TO PRESENT POSSIBLE VARIATIONS ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL THAT WOULD MEET BASIC OBJECTIVE WITHOUT FORMALIZING TOO MUCH. SEE PARA 6 BELOW.

5. PROJECT AND FINANCE MATTERS. A) FRENCH PROVIDED BROCHURE ON THEIR SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE PROJECTS. INCLUDES FOLLOWING WHICH FRENCH REP NOTED ADDED TO \$420 MILLION IN WATER/AGRIC PLUS \$625 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE: A) SENEGAL, MALI, MAURITANIA: IRRIGATION PERIMETERS IN SAHEL - \$200 MILLION. B) UPPER VOLTA - BAGRE DAM 440-520 MILLION FRENCH FRANCS. C) PROGRAM FOR APPLICATION SOLAR ENERGY. D) CHAD: BONGOR-LAI ROAD, 426 MILLION FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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FRANCS. E) ZAIRE: NEW ROAD PROGRAM, \$145 MILLION. F). ZAIRE: ROAD REHABILITATION \$248 MILLION. G) RWANDA/TANZANIA: KUSUMU - ISAKA ROAD - 50 MILLION UCE. H). TANZANIA: KIGOMA - DAR RR - \$200 MILLION. I) ZAMBIA: ROAD AND RR PROJECTS OPEN UP ACCESS - \$150 - \$250 MILLION. FRENCH MADE CLEAR THIS ONLY THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND WISHED OTHERS IN GROUP SUBMIT THEIR IDEAS TO THEM AS WELL. PRESENTATION ON PROJECTS GENERALLY EMPHASIZED INFRASTRUCTURE WATER DEVELOPMENT, OPENING UP LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, ETC. GENERAL DESIRE CONCENTRATE ON FEW SECTORS; LITTLE INTEREST IN HEALTH PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY U.S. BUT AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE BHN INTEREST. ECONOMIC STABILIZATION SUPPORT NOT APPROPRIATE. GERMANS STRESSED DESIRABILITY FOCUS ON PROMOTING INTER-AFRICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AS ONLY CRITERIA WHICH HELP GIVE CONSTRUCTIVE LEGITIMIZING FEATURE TO INITIATIVE. B) BRIEF PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL TERMS AND UNTYING OUTLINED BY EACH DONOR. TERMS BASICALLY AS NOW STANDARD FOR EACH; FRENCH LOAN TERMS HARDEST 23 YEARS WITH LOW INTEREST. UNTYING DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PROBLEM EXCEPT FOR US AND POSSIBLY UK.

6. U.S. VARIATION ON FRENCH PROPOSAL. A. PROPOSED U.S. VARIATIONS AS FOLLOWS: 1) ESTABLISH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OR GROUP. 2) PURPOSE OF COUNCIL: TO MOBILIZE FUNDS AND FACILITATE CO-FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS; TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE

ASSISTANCE; TO IDENTIFY MAJOR DEVELOPMENT REQUIRE-
MENTS. 3) WESTERN DONOR PARTICIPATION: COUNCIL
MIGHT INCLUDE BASIC GROUP OF FIVE PLUS 1-3
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OTHERS. COUNCIL COULD WORK WITH MULTILATERAL
AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AS APPROPRIATE. 4)
AFRICANS REPRESENTED BY RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS OR GROUP TO INTERFACE
WITH DONOR COUNCIL. ALL AFRICA SOUTH OF
SAHARA INCLUDED. 5) MANAGEMENT:
PERIODIC MEETINGS OF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WITH
SMALL HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ON CONTINUING BASIS
WITH POSSIBLY AFRICAN PARALLEL. 6) FINANCE:
MAINTAIN BASIC BILATERAL STYLE BUT USE COUNCIL
MECHANISM TO BRING DONOR FINANCING TOGETHER ON
MAJOR SCHEMES GROUP AGREES TO JOIN IN. 7) POLITICAL
IMPACT TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PROCESS
WHICH SEEN TO MOBILIZE FUNDS, HELP RESOLVE
IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES, MAKE MORE VISIBLE THE
CURRENT FLOW (\$1.5 - 2.0 BILLION P.A.) FROM
BILATERAL DONORS AND POTENTIAL INCREASES, AND BY
ISSUE OF ANNUAL REPORT TO INFORM AFRICANS. 8)
EMPHASIZE NO FUND, NO PREPACKAGING OF PROJECTS
INTO "PROGRAM". B. DISCUSSION OF ABOVE
GENERALLY POSITIVE WITH CLEAR INTEREST IN
COORDINATION ON AID TO AFRICA (NOTABLY GERMANS).
NUMBER OF CLARIFICATIONS AND ELABORATIONS WERE
NECESSARY. E.G. 1) PROJECT FINANCING NOT POSSIBLE
ACCORDING TO PREDETERMINED SHARES WHICH FRENCH
PREFERRED. U.S. SUGGESTED NOT ALL MEMBERS NEED

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PARTICIPATE ON EACH PROJECT; OTHERS STRESSED
ESSENTIAL PROCEED ONLY ON PROJECTS ALL CAN
PARTICIPATE IN; ALSO IMPORTANT FIND WAYS TO
RATIONALIZE/HARMONIZE PROCEDURES. 2) OTHER
WESTERN DONOR MEMBERSHIP MIGHT INCLUDE CANADIANS,
DUTCH, ITALIANS BUT CONCERN EXPRESSED PRINCIPALLY
BY FRENCH OVER TOO LARGE GROUP. 3) AFRICAN
COUNTERPART COULD BE ECA, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK, OAU DESIGNATE. 4) SMALL PROFESSIONAL
SECRETARIAT ACCEPTABLE WITH FAMILIAR FEARS ABOUT
LARGE CIVIL SERVANT/BUREAUCRATIC UNIT EXPRESSED;
ALSO REFERENCE (GERMAN) TO POSSIBLE USE EXISTING
ORGANIZATIONS. ' 5) FRENCH PARTICULARLY DESIRED
SHOW PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS AS ADDITIONAL
AID BEGINNING 1978 AS THEY PREPARED TO DO; OTHERS
HAD PROBLEM WITH THIS. 6) FRENCH
QUESTIONING ON U.S.' VARIATION WAS PRINCIPALLY
AIMED AT PRESERVING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF PROGRAM/
FUND CONCEPT, EVEN IF AFTER THE FACT, TO ACHIEVE
POLITICAL VISIBILITY. GERMANS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT
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U.S. APPROACH; UK SUPPORTIVE; BELGIANS NON-
COMMITAL BUT NO OBJECTION VOICED. 7) U.S.
REP REEMPHASIZED; CANNOT ACCEPT \$1 BILLION/40 PER-
CENT US SHARE/5 YR TERM IDEA IN WHATEVER WAY DERIVED;
IMPORTANCE INCLUDING HORN OF AFRICA - E.G. SUDAN,
SOMALIA; US PROBLEM WITH ASSISTANCE FOR MAJOR
INFRASTRUCTURE THOUGH MULTI DONOR FRAMEWORK
HELPFUL; IMPORTANCE MAKING VISIBLE SUBSTANTIAL
EXISTING FLOW WESTERN ASSISTANCE.

7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING SUMMARY. BEFORE CLOSING
THE MEETING FROMENT-MEURICE (FM) ATTEMPTED TO
SUMMARIZE EITHER THE CONSENSUS OR THE REMAINING
UNRESOLVED POINTS ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES. THE HIGH-
LIGHTS OF HIS COMMENTS ON POINTS OF APPARENT
AGREEMENT:

-- THERE IS AGREEMENT AS TO BASIC OBJECTIVES AND ON THE NEED FOR COMMON ACTION IN SPECIFIC, VISIBLE WAYS THAT GO BEYOND WHAT WE ARE DOING BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY.

-- ON DONOR PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME EXPANSION WE ALL WANT TO AVOID "DOUBLE DIGIT" MEMBERSHIP.

-- AS TO TYPE OF AID, IT SHOULD INVOLVE PROJECT ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT OR DEBT RELIEF; PROJECTS COULD INCLUDE IRRIGATION, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE WITH EMPHASIS ON COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION TO OPEN UP ISOLATED AREAS -- BUT WITH US EMPHASIS ON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AND CONGRESSIONAL RETICENCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE NOTED.

-- ON INCLUSION OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, WE SHOULD NOT APPEAR DELIBERATELY TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN

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CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES, BUT SHOULD HAVE CLEAR DE FACTO PRIORITIES AS TO WHOM WE HELP.

-- FROMENT MEURICE FOUND NO ENTHUSIASM FOR THE IDEA OF CONSTITUTING A GROUP OF WISEMEN" AS THE MEANS OF PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH AFRICANS; BUT FRANCE NEVERTHELESS URGES THAT THE IDEA NOT BE DISMISSED ENTIRELY IN VIEW OF THE NEED FOR HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH AFRICAN LEADERS.

-- ON FINANCING, THERE WOULD BE CO-FINANCING OF SELECTED PROJECTS ON WHICH ALL THE GROUP'S DONORS COULD AGREE; BUT THE PROPORTIONAL COUNTRY SHARES OF FUNDING CANNOT BE PREDETERMINED EXCEPT POSSIBLY IF AID CAN BE UNTIED.

-- ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THIS PURPOSE MAY BE DIFFICULT BUT CAN BE INCLUDED IN INCREASE OF OVER-ALL ASSISTANCE FOR AFRICA -- MAYBE SHORT TERM RATHER THAN LONG TERM PROBLEM.

-- ALTHOUGH SOME DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THE SPECIAL DONOR EFFORT SHOULD BE CALLED A "PROGRAM", THE US HAS RESERVATIONS AS TO HOW AND WHEN POTENTIAL COLLECTION OF PROJECTS COULD BE TERMED A PROGRAM.

-- DURATION OF THE JOINT EFFORT WAS NOT MUCH DISCUSSED, BUT THE IDEA THAT IT MIGHT LOOK BEYOND

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5 YEARS WAS NOTED WITH INTEREST.

-- AN ANNUAL REPORT COULD BE PUBLISHED TO
DRAMATIZE ACHIEVEMENTS; BUT IT SHOULD FOCUS ON
ACTIVITIES GENERATED BY THE DONOR GROUP ITSELF
SO AS NOT TO DILUTE THESE AMONG OTHER AFRICAN
ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED BY THE
SAME DONORS.

IN ADDITION, FM RAISED THREE QUESTIONS FOR FUTURE
CONSIDERATION:

-- SHOULD WE HAVE A MEETING OF BENEFICIARIES
ONCE PROJECTS ARE SELECTED?

-- CAN THE EVENTUAL ENSEMBLE OF PROJECTS BE
IDENTIFIED IN NATIONAL BUDGETS AS CONSTITUTING A
SPECIAL PROGRAM?

-- CAN ADDITIONAL FUNDS, BEYOND WHAT WAS ALREADY
PLANNED, BE OBTAINED FOR FUTURE BUDGETS?
BY WAY OF FOLLOW-UP FM SUGGESTED A MEETING
IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE MEANTIME THERE WOULD BE
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AN EXCHANGE OF REACTIONS AFTER THE FIVE DELEGATIONS
HAD BEEN ABLE TO REPORT BACK TO THEIR AUTHORITIES
AND POSSIBLY FURTHER PROPOSALS VIA DIPLOMATIC

CHANNELS. THE LATTER EXCHANGE WOULD INCLUDE COMMENTS ON THE FRENCH PROJECT PROPOSALS TABLED ON JUNE 22 AND THE FORWARDING OF ANY PROJECT PROPOSALS OTHER COUNTRIES MAY WISH TO MAKE. A WRITTEN CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT MEETING AND/OR AN OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED COOPERATIVE EFFORT MIGHT ALSO BE CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE.

THE MEETING CLOSED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE AND A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON ALL SIDES. THERE WAS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE IDEAS BROUGHT ABOUT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE DIGESTED AND DISCUSSED IN ALL FIVE CAPITALS BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION WAS WARRANTED.

8. COMMENTS. U.S. DELEGATION TRIED TO MAKE AS POSITIVE A CONTRIBUTION AS POSSIBLE FOR THIS EXPERTS MEETING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME QUESTIONING THE FEASIBILITY OR POINTING OUT THE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE U.S. OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR MODIFICATION IN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WERE DESIGNED TO TEST THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT CHANGES. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOVING AWAY FROM THE FUND CONCEPT IN FAVOR OF A PROGRAM CONCEPT AND OF POSSIBLY DROPPING THE "WISEMEN" IDEA, THEY ARE PRETTY MUCH WEDDED TO THEIR ORIGINAL VIEWS ON THE GROUNDS THAT "HIGH VISIBILITY" AND THUS POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL

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IMPACT ON THE AFRICANS CAN ONLY BE SATISFIED BY THEIR PROPOSAL. DESPITE REPEATED ASSURANCES ABOUT CONSULTATION WITH AFRICANS, THE TIME PRESSURES GENERATED BY THE FRENCH SUGGEST THIS VITAL ELEMENT MAY NOT RECEIVE THE ATTENTION WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED. FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER THIS INITIATIVE IS FEASIBLE IN TERMS OF US FUNDING PROCESS, AND WHETHER IT WILL BEST SERVE U.S. INTERESTS IN AFRICA.

HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: EFIN, FR
To: STATE
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